***Plagiarism***

As students studying in USA you have to remember that plagiarism is an act of fraud and it is stated in US laws. Plagiarism is an act of stealing other people’s work and assigning it to oneself.

The most popular acts that are considered as plagiarism:

1. Assigning someone else’s work to one own
2. Not mentioning the source of information or providing the wrong source
3. Copying too much information even if source was mention

***The Ghost Writer***

The ghost writer is a person who writes articles, makes research and does other types of works but his proceedings are credited to another person.

There are two types of Ghost writers:

1. *Mercenary*
2. *Victim*

***Mercenary*** is a person who is paid for the job he/she does. And this person knows that this work will be assigned by another person. They do almost everything, they write different types of books, autobiographies, articles, speeches, and even musical compositions and comments.

Example:

*Some companies and organizations hire people to leave positive comments and reviews. They do it to grab people’s attention. This act is considered as hiring ghost writer.*

***Victim*** is a person whose work was stolen and was credited to another person. Unlike mercenary, victim gets absolutely nothing, no payment, no fame.

Example:

*Famous mathematician named Fermat was accused of stealing his students’ works. However, his guilt was not proved.*

***Accidental stealing***

When the write quote from other sources, the writer used proper citation and paraphrase well, but he or she forget to put the quotation marks in text. This case is called Accidental stealing.

Example:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Plagiarized version | Correct version |
| * According to Althen, the author of *American Ways*, It [advertising] affords countless insights into American values, tastes, and standards (205). | * According to Althen, the author of *American Ways*, “It [advertising] affords countless insights into American values, tastes, and standards” (205). |

***The Poor Disguise***  
  
Although the writer included the quotation marks and give reference, author’s name, date, pages, the writer does not paraphrase, only change key words or phrases.

Example:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Plagiarized version | Correct version |
| * According to *Outliners*, “a ***KAL*** Boeing 707 ***lost way*** into Russian ***sky*** . . . By a ***USSR*** jet over the Barents Sea” (179). | * According to *Outliners*, “a ***Korean Air*** Boeing 707 ***wandered*** into Russian ***air space*** . . . By ***a Soviet military*** jet over the Barents Sea” (179). |

\*Guide line to avoid plagiarism- 1. Put the quotation mark.

2. Do the paraphrase.

***The Photocopy***

Photocopy is usually done when students leave their project or essay to the last minute that the only thing that students can do is search for information, find a topic that fits their requirement and then copy and paste without giving reference to the actual author. The students do not put any efforts in their work; they take other people’s work and claim it as their own.

***The Potluck Paper***

The Potluck paper is the situation when students take information from different resources and connect them together with a word of their own. In that case students never give credit to the source; they simply turn in the work as their own.

Example:

*Student making research on the issue of multiculturalism takes an article from NY Times and connect it with the information from textbook. As a result, this research doesn’t contain authentic information.*

Reference:

A Few Words of His Own (NY Times article) [http://www.ghostwriters-ink.com](http://www.ghostwriters-ink.com/)

LA HABITACION DE FERMAT (movie) [http://www.plagiarismtoday.com](http://www.plagiarismtoday.com/)

<https://www.indiana.edu/~istd/example2word.html> [http://www.plagiarism.org](http://www.plagiarism.org/)